13th Annual Audre Lorde Scholarship Awards – Craig's list

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Program

*Any **out** lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender student of color who is a graduating high school senior or attending any accredited technical, undergraduate or graduate school located in the United States.*

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Awards are especially designed for those who are making significant contributions to their communities.

Out is defined as an acknowledgement of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identify to self, and or to family, friends, and community.*

History

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of African descent through scholarships, leadership development, support/ discussion groups, social activities, drum performances, outreach and education.

In October 1989, a Women of Color Caucus was created by lesbian members of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA). They renamed themselves ZAMI — a Carriacou word meaning women who work together as friends and lovers.

The name ZAMI also honors the late Audre Lorde, a Black lesbian feminist who wrote the biomythography *ZAMI: A New Spelling of My Name*.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund is administered by ZAMI established in 1995 as the brainchild of its current board chair, Mary Anne Adams.
In 1997, the first two scholarships since then, 114 scholarships have been awarded. One of those first two scholars was Wendy O Neal. Faced homophobia isolation, hostility resistance on campus. Asked for sista support from ZAMI. She has gone on to become an amazing organizer/ teacher in her own right.

Students
Fields range from Business Admin, Environmental Eng, Women and Gender Studies, AA, Yoga Theory. Concentrations-rhetorical pedagogy, popular culture, harlem renaissance;social justice; Black lesbian/ bisexual women communication and sexuality

They help butch transitioning transgender folks with self care and health. Work with Seeds of Fire, FIST, Amigos Latinos Apayando Siempre (ALAS)

Come from West Africa, Talahasee, FL, Vietnam, Berkeley and Albany, GA To paraphrase Joshua Johnson, "they recognize they have an obligation to use their privilege to be a voice for those who are living in the periphery." They are diverse multi layered, and not single issue focused. We are not a single issue people.

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SCHOLARS – DONORS

Dawn Robinson, recipient of the **Sheryl Burke Award**, recently returned to college to complete her undergraduate degree after a 25 year hiatus. She is studying English and Creative Writing in Berkeley City College in Berkeley, California. She serves as Personal Trainer with butch, transitioning and transgender folks to help prevent them from developing heart disease and type 2 diabetes. "Wars, poverty, homophobia or disease do irreparable damage, to be sure, but even these cannot completely eradicate us, that is why our own behavior is the larger threat. Healthy physical and emotional self care means that we will be here for ourselves, our friends, our families. Here, not just surviving on the planet. We can do something revolutionary in America. We can be whole."

Dawns Donor -- Sheryl Burke is a Personal Injury Attorney who operates her own law practices based in Georgia and California. Sheryl hails from LA, California, she's a graduate of St. Louis University Law School and is a member of the National and Georgia Trial Lawyers' Association. She has donated thousands of dollars in the service of supporting ZAMI scholars thousands of hours serving the mission of ZAMI.

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Adminisrration from West Valley College in Saratoga, California. She and her family were resettled from Vietnam by the US during the war torn years. While her family identity and culture were threatened to be stripped she worked to overcome internalized homophobia and family discrimination to find acceptance Loc says "My proudest personal experience was finding acceptance within myself to live as a Vietnamese queer woman." Since earning her Bachelors in Psychology she has volunteered to help youth and adults who are dealing with coming out issues and in need of safe harbor.

Loc's Donors- Rhonda Freeman & Sarah Crymes

Rhonda Freeman, is an engineer who loves all things related to math and science.

She also loves her home state of Florida, poodles, swimming and her family. She has

been known to have an obsession with puzzles.

Sarah Crymes is a business woman specializing in healthcare administration

(MBA/MHSA University of Michigan). Her passion is building lesbian and

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Kristen Brown, recipient of the **Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award** is pursuing a PhD in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She wants to concentrate on policy issues that affect LGBT people. Look out 'cause she strives to be the first openly gay African American and the first openly lesbian woman to publish in the public administration and policy fields on LGBT policy issues like health, HIV prevention and services for black LGBT people. She focuses on communication for African American lesbian and bisexual women in the context of sexuality, pleasure, safer sex, and sexual health and well being.

The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award Margaret Ntombi Howell who made her transition in 2003 was a national spokesperson who transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor. This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran. **Kristen's Donors –**

Rhesa Jenkins is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community settings, such as Clark Atlanta University and the Ford Foundation's program in Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran's** work is as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creating sustainable institutions.

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Joshua Johnson, recipient of the **Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award** is a first year Law student with a minor in Social Justice and Public Interest at the University of California at Berkeley. He is emphatic about how his identity as a Black gay male frames his experiences. As a gay man of color raised by a single mother, he brings perspective that is often not represented. "In South LA, many people who come from backgrounds similar to mine think that higher education is not for them." He has spent long volunteer hours tutoring at risk children, providing Spanish Interpreting skills at a Children's hospital, and working on HIV/AIDS issues. "I have an obligation to use my privileges to be a voice for those who have become accustomed to living in the periphery."

Joshua's Donors- Sandra Jones & Ronald Moore

Dr. Sandra B. Jones, from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She is currently at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and adolescents.

Ronald Moore retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in many roles mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Ronald has worked in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV / and other illnesses). Ronald is a Detroit native who made his home in Atlanta.

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Sarah Stefana Smith, recipient of the **Margaret Helfand Memorial Award** is a Candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Art at Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. Since attending Spelman College in Atlanta she has been interested in the relationship between art and activism, and the power of photography, so she became a photographer. Her work illuminates how interlocking systems "keep poor people of all backgrounds removed and isolated from each other." She has worked with diverse organizations such as the Media Mobilizing Project and the Anti-Displacement Support Committee. "My position as a queer black woman is not simply about standing in solidarity with communities I identify and don't identify with, but recognizing that to move with my identities and beyond them is to reach for connections.

Sarah's Donor Margaret Helfand Memorial Award

Margaret Helfand was a Manhattan architect and urban planner recognized worldwide for her innovative approach to design of institutional buildings and college campuses. Breaking through gender typecasting that relegates female architects to designing houses and interiors, she executed large-scale institutional and commercial works. ~~Her firm's designs won many awards and distinctive honors~~ This award is funded by her sister **Judy Helfand**.

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Mary Anne Adams Community Organizing Award

Mary Anne Adams board chair and former executive director of ZAMI, Inc. She is the founder and primary organizer of its national Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund for LGBT students of color. Born in Mississippi, she has lived in Atlanta for many years, and has served on the boards of several gay and feminist organizations. She is a program director with Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health and runs her own research development company: The Adams Research Group. A recent breast cancer survivor, she lives her struggle OUT LOUD.

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Yolo Akili, recipient of the **Linda Bryant & Wendy Belkin Award** is well known as an activist and a performance poet. He currently serves on the Atlanta Queer Literary Festivals Board Committee and is also a founder of ATL Queer Men's Collective, addresses male privilege and sexism in Queer communities. He is also a co-founder of Da C.R.I.B.B, a center for Queer youth. Akili is studying Iyengar Yoga Theory & Practice at the Yoga of India in Atlanta. As a Yogi I plan to work principally with underprivileged communities and "revolutionaries" to help them deal with the stressors of their lives."

Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has beenlovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. She studied English at the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with t community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent.to serve Spirit with integrity and grace.

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and has been a long supporter of Charis Books, Charis Circle and ZAMI. She is an amateur astronomer and photographer

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Lewis Hamer, a freshman at Harold Washington College in Chicago is the recipient of the **Cherie Caldwell Award**. He is an education major who wants to become an elementary school teacher. He works with Amigos Latinos Apayando Siempre (ALAS) a social support group for gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning Latino men dealing with drug abuse, HIV/STD pervention, college/career planning. He was a guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* titled When I Knew I Was Gay. As a guest, he wanted to change the perceptions about homosexual men of color.

Cherie Caldwell is Managing Director, Human Resources at Delta Air Lines, Inc. Caldwell has global responsibility for Talent Acquisition, Retention and Diversity for the fastest growing international airline carrier. She is accountable for building global strategies and i hiring diverse talent. Caldwell graduated with honors from the University of Maryland where she majored in Human Resources Management. She currently holds a professional SPHR certification and lives in Atlanta.

of her outrage and indifference, I have learned to accept all cultures and people for who they are. I now fight for LGBT rights and for other people who are discriminated against every day." She asserts, "It is not my job to worry about what the world will think of me. It is my job to tell the truth. To be open and vulnerable because I know that there's some girl or boy out there looking, just like I did, to someone or something for comfort."

David Green, recipient of the **Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble,** is working toward a Masters degree in African American Studies with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. For several years, he has given his energy to Habitat for Humanity and the AIDS Network and is currently working with students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to get a Queer People of Color (QPOC) established on its campus. Green exclaims that teaching and educating others are his life's passions melding both his race and sexuality in the pursuit of justice. "Due to the hegemonic and divisive systems at play in America, systems that deny African Americans and gay men and women "equal opportunity" I have chosen to become an EDUCATOR, not simply a university professor or a teacher. I can profess my love for books and teach a student the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. But to educate a person, man or woman, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgender is to teach them the value of love of self and of others; the true purpose of activism."

Leicque Doanes, is the recipient of the **ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance) Award**. She is a first semester freshman at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta where she plans to study Business Administration Management and Music Education. As a high school student, Doanes mother was very accepting of her sexuality and allowed her to spend many hours volunteering at Gay Pride and at YouthPride: An organization dedicated to service and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. She is very passionate about education because it will allow her the independent and agency needed as a lesbian woman of color. "This scholarship is going to open up so many doors to my future because people will see that I am an out lesbian and willing to share my struggles and progress with those coming after who may want to follow in my footsteps. "

At 29 years of age, **Kendra Nicole Bryant,** recipient of the **Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotton Williams Award** has spent the last ten of them teaching high school and college students**.** Currently pursuing a *Ph.D., in English Rhetoric and Composition*, at the University of South Florida in Tampa, with Concentrations in Rhetorical Pedagogy, Popular Culture, and Harlem Renaissance, Bryant asserts that one of the major problems facing the LGBT community is its youth's struggle to claim their identity in this postmodern society. " Because I realize the need for children and young adults to witness lesbian women who do not fit the stereotypes as portrayed in mass communications, I have committed myself to being an "out of the closet" instructor. As a result, I have participated in LGBT discussion panels on University of South Florida's campus, as well as shared poetry that reveals my sexual identity during various poetry readings throughout the Tampa Bay area." She founded a non-profit organization geared towards freeing marginalized, downtrodden people of color through writing initiatives. Bryant calls her organization **F.I.S.T.**, which is an acronym for **Fightin' Ignorance, Spittin' Truth**.

Jardyn Lake, recipient of the **Mandy Carter Award** is in her last year of a Bachelor's program at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania focusing on African American Studies. She comes from a family of powerful, brilliant, and independent women. "Unfortunately, most of the women in my family have lived lives of selfless labor and have never had the opportunity to go to college. But they have always instilled in me the notion that education is a means of liberation." However Lake says that despite the boldness of the women in her family, the general belief is that women are to be seen and not heard. "I refuse to let my life be dictated by these limiting roles. The present patriarchy perpetuated within my family has certainly made me strive to redefine what it means to be a woman and challenge patriarchy around me. I also try to build alliances and friendships with women who actively resist patriarchy." Those alliances have been build through leadership training opportunities with Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Seeds of Fire: Youth Organizing & Leadership Institute, Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) Inc., Jacksonville Playback Theatre, Metrotown Teen Diversity and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC).

As the first female in her family to attend college, **Tyaire Wilkerson**, recipient of the **Fourth Tuesday/ Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative Award** is in her first year at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida where she is studying English/ Writing. Her primary goal is to become a published writer of poetry and short stories. Wilkerson maintains that writing her Memoirs is a very important goal because she wants to use her life story as an example of courage and achievement. "My mother has never and will never accept my sexual orientation. She believes it is a great sin against God. She demeans my relationships and calls the love I feel for my girlfriend a mockery. Because